

fish extinctions in the past 100 years, and the decline of 70 percent of the fish species listed by the Endangered Species Act.

But what is known about the effect of non-native invasive species is greater still. For example, it is thought by many accidentally introduced New Zealand mud snails have contributed directly to the decline of the native fauna in the Snake River, and led to the proposal to list at least one of the Snake River snails as endangered.

We hope that the Senate will quickly pass H.R. 4283. By passing this bill we will take one very important step to protect our aquatic habitats from non-native species.

BALLAST EXCHANGE

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, a priority for me in the National Invasive Species Act has been to establish a ballast technology demonstration program to usher in the development of safer and more reliable alternatives to ballast exchange. I note that in H.R. 4283, the Secretary of Interior and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration implement this important program in cooperation with the Secretary of Transportation Administration. I believe the Secretary of Transportation should involve its Office of Shipbuilding and Technology which already has years of experience in ballast technology in this program.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Involvement of that office will be important to build upon past experience in ballast technology development and I also urge its involvement.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill, which provides for the National Invasive Species Act of 1996, be deemed read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The bill (H.R. 4283) was deemed read the third time and passed.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE COMPACT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of House Joint Resolution 193, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 193) granting the consent of Congress to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the joint resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be deemed read a third time and passed,

the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

I might say, this compact is among the States of Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 193) was deemed read the third time and passed.

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT REGULATION COMPACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of House Joint Resolution 194.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 194) granting the consent of the Congress to amendments made by Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the joint resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be deemed read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 194) was deemed read the third time and passed.

MODIFYING BOUNDARIES OF TALLADEGA FOREST, AL

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Agriculture Committee be immediately discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1874, a bill to modify the boundaries on the Talladega National Forest, AL, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1874) to modify the boundaries of the Talladega National Forest, Alabama.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to

the measure be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1874) was deemed read the third time and passed.

WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to consideration of H.R. 1281, received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1281) to express the sense of the Congress that it is the policy of the Congress that United States Government agencies in possession of records about individuals who are alleged to have committed Nazi war crimes should make those records public.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1281, the War Crimes Disclosure Act, which expresses the sense of Congress that Government agencies in possession of records documenting Nazi war crimes should declassify such records and release them to the public.

Ideally, in a democracy, all government information belongs to the people, excepting such information as would be harmful to the body politic if made publicly available. Knowledge of wartime atrocities presents no threat to the American people. To the contrary, accurate information about the Nazi regime, and those who ruthlessly carried out its barbaric policies, can only serve to deepen our understanding of history's darkest chapter, and strengthen our resolve that it never be repeated.

On August 2, 1996, I introduced the War Crimes Disclosure Act (S. 2048), which would have amended the Freedom of Information Act to provide for disclosure of information relating to individuals who committed Nazi war crimes. This bill, cosponsored by Senators D'AMATO and DODD, is the Senate companion to a similar measure sponsored in the House of Representatives by my colleague from New York, the Honorable CAROLYN MALONEY.

Inexplicably, that measure has met with some opposition and, due to the impending adjournment of Congress, we will not be able to adopt it in its original form. Nevertheless, with the passage of this amended legislation, Congress makes an important statement in support of public disclosure of documents relevant to Nazi war crimes. This is a first step. I do hope that we can revisit this issue in the 105th Congress.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to